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VOL. VI.

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1852.

NO. 273.

G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

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THE MILLER TRAGEDY.

We find in the Chester county papers the
following proceedings of a public meeting relative
to the Miller tragedy:

EAST NOTTINGHAM, February 7, 1852.

A very numerous and respectable meeting of
persons interested in the recent deplorable kid-
napping case in West Nottingham township,
Chester county, was held on Friday evening, the
7th inst. The meeting was called for the purpose
of effecting an organization of effort in the pro-
secution of the suit for the freedom of Rachel
Parker, and other matters pertaining to the case.
The meeting was held at the residence of Mr.
Joseph C. Miller, a statement of their views
and conclusions; and was called by Mr. C. Miller,
Brother, Chase, Hamlin, Mann, Morris, Pratt,
Wade—10.After some conversation, it was understood
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Wilberforce, after the true character and tendency of the Society had been developed, united with a number of his Anti-Slavery friends and coadjutors in publishing a protest against it. The document, after specifying various objections to the practical operations of the Society, and the sentiments it advanced, concluded in these words:—

SPEECH OF WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
ON THE
PROPOSED PROTEST OF THE UNITED STATES
AGAINST
THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF RUSSIA
IN THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION.

Delivered in the Senate of the U. States, March 9, 1852.

The question was on the following resolutions, submitted by Mr. SEWARD as a substitute for resolutions introduced by the Hon. Mr.

Resolved, That while the United States, in consideration of the exigencies of society, habitually recognise Governments *de facto* in other States, yet that they are nevertheless by no means indifferent when such a Government is established against the consent of any people, and that the United States will not intervene for foreign States or nations.

Resolved, That, considering that the people of Hungary, in the exercise of the right secured to them by the laws of nations, in a solemn and lawful manner, have declared their national independence, and established a Government by their own voluntary act, and successfully maintained it against all opposition by parties lawfully interested in the question; and that the Emperor of Russia, without just or lawful cause, has invaded the territory of Hungary, and armed force, subverted the national independence and political constitution thus established, and thereby reduced that country to the condition of a province ruled by a foreign power; the United States, in defence of their

Mr. SEWARD rose and said:

MR. PRESIDENT: Writers on law teach us that the State is a community of Moral Persons, existing for the promotion of Moral and Useful, and possessing Rights and subject to Duties defined by the Law of Nature, which is a system of politics and morals. The Law of Nature is the basis of the difference between Politics and Morals in that one regulates the operations of Government, while the other directs the conduct of individuals and that the maxims of both are the same. But the Law of Nature is not a

ject to one Prince, and yet be mutually independent; that a nation becomes free by the act of its Ruler when he exceeds the fundamental law, and that the fundamental law is the right of the people to elect their Ruler, whether domestic or foreign, attempts to deprive them of their independence or of liberty, it may lawfully take counsel of its courage, and prefer before the certainty of servitude the chances of death; that the law of nations is not a law, but every other in time of peace the most good; and in time of war the least harm possible; consistently with its own real interests; that while this is an imperfect obligation, of which the law of nations is but a shadow, it is not a right to use peaceful means, and even force, if necessary, to repress a Power that openly violates the Law of Nations and directs, and executes, its arms against the community; that though the interest of universal society may be promoted by the interference of one State, it never creates mutual intercourse between States, it can never

thelless be conducted by those only who in their respective nations possess and exercise in full adequate political powers.

Central Europe, with only an inconsiderable seaport, we have known little of her, except that she was one of the oldest and most energetic and inexorable champions of the rights of States, and of the rights of man under the changing names of "The Alliance Powers," "The Holy League," and "The Holy Alliance," and with the unchanging pretence of devotion to Order and Religion, have more often been the oppressor and tyrant of States, than where the reforming and benign principles of the American Revolution.

Hungary, after having been in ages past the heroic defender of Christian Europe against the invasions of the Mohammedan, and the inveterate guardian of Austria from the usurpation of Prussia and France, seemed near a century

ago to disappear, and only four years since the Magyar nation had been crushed in the battle of Mohacs, the Magyar people were again the protagonists in the Drama of Nations. The occupiers of the country were a region within the Austrian Empire with fifteen millions of people, of whom the Magyars were a minority. They were a people of a race that had inherited freedom, arts and sciences, and a political system that was not German, Serb, and Wallachian, and, as the two latter classes were debased and virtually enslaved by feudal customs and laws, the Magyar nation was bound to turn to the Constitution given to her by an Austrian Emperor, and to demand the restoration of Monarchy and absolute independence.

State Beginning, however, in 1530, the Duke of Austria, Ferdinand, was crowned King of Hungary for his Kings the successive reigning Dukes of the House of Habsburg. Lorraine, in the period of the Renaissance, was a country of a population of one hundred and fifty thousand, and the emperor succeeded to her throne by a law of inheritance. Nevertheless, fundamental law was enacted by Hungary, and accepted by the emperor, that the king should be elected by the

States, declaring that the King should have no powers before coronation, that he could not be crowned only on signing a compact and on swearing an oath to sustain the Constitution. The King, however, refused to sign the compact, which she was a free and independent State and that she could be bound by no royal edicts or decrees, but only by laws passed by her own Diet or Legislature, and sanctioned by the King.

Hungary was always as independent of Russia as we are.

Her. Mr. President, was the condition of Hungary, 1848. Now she has become a free Constitution, nor King, nor Diet, nor National functions, nor National organs, nor dependence, nor Liberty, nor Law, but lies prostrate at the feet of the Austrian Emperor, as she did at the feet of the Turkish Sultan, and holds the sword. Who has wrought this melancholy

and ferbarth change in a country that had used its liberty so nobly, and had kept it so long. We shere soon see.

While rising in 1848, the Hungarian Diet was revising and meliorating their domestic laws, learned by the telegraphic wires that the Republic had risen in Paris, and that a Co-ventual National Assembly had been elected in Vienna. Atrailing themselves about the European circumstances, they decreed the establishment of an independent National Treasury, Resident Palatine or Viceroy, and a responsible Hungarian Ministry. They also decreed a more just, and constitutional, Hungarian taxation, and received the royal sanction of these measures with contentment and satisfaction at the very moment when only her word was wanted by the Emperor to give effect to the measures which the Germans obtained a Constitution at the hands of the Emperor, who thus became

limited monarch in his Austrian domain, and that he had always been a subject of the Emperor. He thus furnished the social and political condition of the State, and abrogating Feudalism, but not without just compensation, the established equality of tax-payers, representation, suffrage and the right of appeal among all classes throughout the Kingdom; and on the 11th of April the Emperor crowned this noble and beneficent work by an act approving and confirming the new constitution.

By a party of reaction, not Hungarian, Austrian, on groundless pretences fomented by the Emperor, the Emperor's subjects were persecuted in the Hungarian Provinces of Serbia and Wallachia; and inasmuch as tyrannical rule was the only means of restoring the Emperor, violating the Constitution as he was, appointed the chief instigator, the Ban of Jellachich, to the office of Ban or Governor of the Kingdom.

the Emperor dismissed the ministers who had been summoned and deposed the Ban, and called the Duke to provide by law promptly and suitably for the safety of the Kingdom. Nevertheless, because the traitor, privily conspiring with the Magistrate, had already fled, the Emperor, with the aid of the Duke, with 4,000 men and receiving three auxiliary Imperial regiments, proceeded to attack the Imperial capital, reaching it with the help of the Duke's private troops, and with him being a young man of noble birth and even chivalrous without measure. In the midst of these terrors the Emperor, very aged and constitutionally weak, fell sick, and died. The defensive army, however, was not yet disbanded, and passed, restored to the ruler, his dignities, and, according to the Imperial law, proclaimed him Emperor. The Ban of the Imperial province, however, was not yet pardoned, and fled to the capital of the Kingdom, where he was killed.

throughout that land a well-known voice-voice that a tyrant had once smiled for th years in an Austrian dungeon, and that in turn had made that tyrant take refuge in

